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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Government notifies ₹1,27,500-crore Semicon 2.0 scheme.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Union Government notified Semicon 2.0 with a ₹1,27,500-crore outlay to build an integrated Indian ecosystem for chip design, fabrication, advanced packaging, equipment and research.

Key Highlights:

- Silicon fabrication units will receive 40% fiscal support.
- Compound, display and specialised fabrication units, including LCD, OLED and Micro LED, will receive 35% support.
- Advanced packaging projects will get a 35% capital incentive, while conventional or legacy packaging will get 25%.
- New companies may receive grants and equity co-investment; established companies may receive royalty finance or equity co-investment.
- Eligibility is restricted to entities owned by Indian citizens or Overseas Citizens of India.

Additional Information:

- Phase 1 of the India Semiconductor Mission approved 12 projects across six states.
- Operational facilities include Micron's ATMP plant, Kaynes Semicon and the CG Semi OSAT facility.

2. 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit begins in Bishkek.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit began at Yrys Ordo Congress Hall in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, under President Sadyr Japarov's chairmanship.

Key Highlights:

- It brought together 10 member states, 15 partner countries and two observer countries; members account for about 25% of global GDP.
- Leaders attended from India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- The expanded SCO Plus session included Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Mongolia, Laos and Togo, including Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Nikol Pashinyan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented India's priorities of Security, Connectivity and Opportunity.
- The 2026 gathering marked the organisation's 25th anniversary and focused on trust, regional peace, stability and multilateral cooperation.

Additional Information:

- India became a full member in 2017.
- The organisation was established in 2001, is headquartered in Beijing and promotes Eurasian security, economic and cultural cooperation.

3. DGFT automates Free Sale and Commerce Certificate issuance.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Directorate General of Foreign Trade introduced automated issuance of Free Sale and Commerce Certificates on its portal on 1 September 2026 to speed export approvals and reduce compliance burdens.

Key Highlights:

- Eligible applications move from manual scrutiny to a seamless, paperless, system-driven workflow.
- Certificates cover products outside the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and operate under the prevailing Foreign Trade Policy.

- Applications that fail automated parameters go to the Regional Authority for mandatory manual checking.
- Automatically approved certificates may later be selected for review by the risk-management system.

Additional Information:

- DGFT is a Commerce Ministry attached office headquartered in New Delhi and implements India's Foreign Trade Policy.
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Act regulates import, manufacture and distribution and is the main law governing the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

4. Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 launched for ornamental fisheries.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 from Lakshadweep on 31 August 2026 to develop India's ornamental-fish farming and export industry.

Key Highlights:

- The mission covers breeding, biological safety and quality control for colourful decorative fish.
- It seeks a larger Indian share of the global market through production, processing and market-linkage clusters.
- Lakshadweep has about 4,200 square kilometres of lagoons and nearly four lakh square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone, equal to 17% of India's total.
- Its fisheries potential exceeds one lakh tonnes, including 94,000 tonnes of tuna.
- Lakshadweep has been notified as a seaweed cluster; tuna, seaweed and ornamental fish are priority areas to reduce reliance on conventional capture fishing.

Additional Information:

- The programme uses a cluster-based development model.
- Lakshadweep's marine resources provide the mission's launch base.

5. Türkiye becomes 71st country to join Artemis Accords.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Türkiye became the 71st signatory to the United States-led Artemis Accords, a framework for peaceful and transparent exploration of the Moon, Mars and deep space.

Key Highlights:

- Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir signed at NASA headquarters in Washington.
- Türkiye is the seventh West Asian member after the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel.
- The framework is based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and supports data sharing, astronaut emergency aid and interoperable space systems.
- It also calls for preservation of historic sites on the Moon and other celestial bodies.
- Alper Gezeravci became the first Turkish citizen in space in 2024, travelling to the International Space Station.
- Türkiye is developing AYAP-1, its first uncrewed lunar soft-landing mission, and Antalya is scheduled to host the International Astronautical Congress in late 2026.

Additional Information:

- The accords cover exploration of the Moon, Mars and deep space.
- Türkiye expanded both diplomatic participation and its own lunar programme.

6. India and Denmark hold fourth MSME Joint Working Group meeting.

[03 SEP 2026] -



India and Denmark held their fourth Joint Working Group meeting in Copenhagen to expand cooperation among micro, small and medium enterprises, innovation and technology.

Key Highlights:

- India's MSME Ministry and the Danish Patent and Trademark Office participated, represented by Dr Rajneesh and Maria Skou.
- The agenda covered intellectual-property-led growth, technology transfer and support for new companies.
- The delegation joined TechBBQ and visited Aarhus University Innovation Kitchen and Agro Food Park.
- Goods trade in 2025 was USD 2.05 billion and services trade USD 4.25 billion.
- About 200 Danish companies have invested in India and 40 Indian companies operate in Denmark.
- Indian small enterprises contribute 31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports.

Additional Information:

- The meeting linked enterprise policy with intellectual property, research and commercial innovation.
- Copenhagen hosted the fourth bilateral working-group session.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. India's April-June quarter GDP grows 7.8%, above RBI forecast.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed India's real economy grew 7.8% in Q1 FY 2026-27, exceeding the Reserve Bank of India's 7% forecast.

Key Highlights:

- Nominal GDP grew 10.3%, while real Gross Value Added increased 8.2%.
- Manufacturing expanded 9.2%, compared with 8.3% a year earlier.

- Services grew 10%, and financial, real-estate and professional services rose 12.1%.

- Gross Fixed Capital Formation increased 11.9%, raising its GDP share to 34.3%.

- The repo rate was 5.25%, fixed on 5 August 2026; the inflation target was 4% within a 2-6% tolerance range.

Additional Information:

- The figures cover the April-June quarter of financial year 2026-27.
- Investment growth was measured through Gross Fixed Capital Formation.

2. Airbus awards A320 fuselage-skin contract to Mahindra Aerostructures.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Airbus awarded Mahindra Aerostructures a multi-year contract to manufacture and supply rear-fuselage and tail-section skins for the A320 aircraft family.

Key Highlights:

- The work covers A320neo and A321XLR models.
- Production will occur at Mahindra's Bengaluru facility and finished parts will go to the Airbus plant in Augsburg, Germany.
- Engineering and tooling design have begun, with deliveries scheduled from 2028.
- New lines will support chemical milling, surface treatment and stretch-forming.

Additional Information:

- Mahindra Aerostructures is a Mahindra Aerospace subsidiary and already makes H125 and H130 helicopter fuselages.
- Jürgen Westermeier is President and Managing Director of Airbus India and South Asia.

3. MoSPI and Thapar Institute partner on consumption-expenditure research.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation signed an MoU with Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Punjab, to create a predictive and analytical framework for monthly consumption expenditure in India.

Key Highlights:

- The research will use Household Consumption Expenditure data.
- It will estimate Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure at national and state levels.
- Household consumption patterns will provide evidence for poverty estimation and wider economic planning.
- Academic collaboration will explore innovative use of artificial intelligence in official statistics.

Additional Information:

- The partnership links official statistics with academic research.
- Its central output will be a monthly predictive and analytical consumption framework.

4. August GST collections rise 14.8% to ₹1.99 lakh crore.

[03 SEP 2026] -



India's gross Goods and Services Tax collection reached ₹1,99,853 crore in August 2026, rising 14.8% year-on-year, according to data released on 1 September.

Key Highlights:

- CGST was ₹38,413 crore, SGST ₹46,316 crore and domestic-transaction IGST ₹52,520 crore.
- Domestic transactions grew 9.3% to ₹1,37,249 crore, while import revenue surged 29% to ₹62,604 crore.
- Net revenue after refunds was ₹1,68,057 crore, up 8.3%; refunds rose 67.9% to ₹31,795 crore.
- Net customs revenue increased 22.3% to ₹49,299 crore.
- Cumulative gross collection in the financial year reached ₹10,42,757 crore, an 11% rise.
- The 57th GST Council meeting was scheduled for 12 September 2026.

Additional Information:

- The GST Council was created under Article 279A and is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- GST began on 1 July 2017 through the 101st Constitutional Amendment, replacing several indirect taxes.
- ICEGATE is Indian Customs' electronic portal for refund processing and documentation.

5. NCDEX launches RAINCHNNAI rainfall futures for monsoon risk.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange launched RAINCHNNAI, a rainfall-based weather-futures contract for managing financial exposure to Northeast Monsoon variability from September to December.

Key Highlights:

- The contract tracks Cumulative Deviation Rainfall from the Long Period Average.
- It uses India Meteorological Department observations from Meenambakkam and Nungambakkam stations.
- Tick size is one millimetre with a ₹50-per-millimetre lot multiplier.
- Minimum initial margin is 10%, maximum order size 50 lots, and daily price limits begin at 6% with a 9% aggregate ceiling.

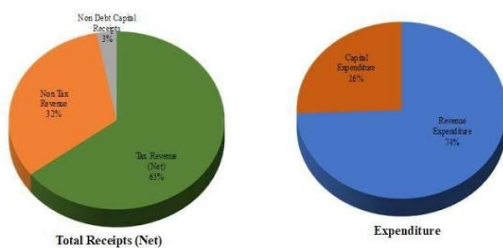
- Cash settlement is based on the cumulative-deviation spot value and does not require conventional insurance-loss assessment.
- It complements RAINMUMBAI, India's first exchange-traded weather derivative, covering both southwest and northeast monsoons.
- The Northeast Monsoon supplies about 70% of Chennai's annual rainfall.

Additional Information:

- NCDEX is a Mumbai-headquartered agricultural commodity exchange regulated by SEBI.
- The India Meteorological Department was established in 1875, is headquartered in New Delhi and works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

6. Union Government releases monthly accounts up to July 2026.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Finance Ministry released consolidated Union Government accounts for the period ending July 2026 in FY 2026-27 on 31 August.

Key Highlights:

- Receipts were ₹13,06,709 crore, equal to 35.8% of the 2026-27 Budget Estimate.
- Net tax revenue to the Centre was ₹8,44,560 crore; non-tax revenue ₹4,23,013 crore; and non-debt capital receipts ₹39,136 crore.
- States received ₹3,72,354 crore as their tax share, ₹56,190 crore less than a year earlier.
- Total expenditure was ₹17,61,853 crore, or 32.9% of the Budget Estimate.
- Revenue expenditure was ₹13,11,218 crore and capital expenditure ₹4,50,635 crore.
- Interest payments were ₹4,26,566 crore and major subsidies ₹1,53,513 crore.

Additional Information:

- The data cover the first four months of FY 2026-27.

- The review separates receipts, state devolution, revenue spending and capital spending.

SPORTS

1. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi becomes youngest Duleep Trophy half-centurion.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to score a Duleep Trophy half-century on 31 August 2026. He achieved the record at 15 years and 157 days during the 2026 semifinal.

Key Highlights:

- The East Zone-Central Zone match was played at BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1 in Bengaluru.
- He scored 92 runs from 81 balls and completed his half-century in 42 balls.
- He broke Laxman Singh's 57-year-old record of a fifty at 16 years and 23 days in 1969.

Additional Information:

- The Duleep Trophy began in 1961-62 and is named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinhji.
- Sooryavanshi represents Bihar and is recorded as the youngest Indian white-ball international debutant.
- Sachin Tendulkar remains the youngest Duleep Trophy centurion at 17 years 262 days; Dhruv Pandove is India's youngest first-class centurion at 14 years 293 days.

2. Lionel Messi announces retirement from international football.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Argentina footballer Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international football on 31 August 2026 at age 39, after the conclusion of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Key Highlights:

- He led Argentina to a second consecutive final in July 2026, where Spain won 1-0 and Argentina finished runner-up.
- Messi won the 2022 World Cup after Argentina defeated France on penalties in Doha.
- His club contract with Major League Soccer side Inter Miami runs through the end of the 2028 season.

Additional Information:

- FIFA was founded on 21 May 1904, is headquartered in Zurich and is led by Gianni Infantino.
- Argentina has won three World Cups, in 1978, 1986 and 2022, plus a record 16 Copa América titles; its team is governed by the Argentine Football Association.

AWARDS

1. Three laureates named for 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced Tommy Koh of Singapore, Runa Khan of Bangladesh and Bo Kyi of Myanmar as the three laureates for 2026 on 31 August.

Key Highlights:

- Tommy Koh, a lawyer and diplomat, was recognised for international diplomacy and law, including leadership of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

- Runa Khan, a social entrepreneur, was honoured for aid, education and empowerment work in remote and vulnerable communities.
- Human-rights activist Bo Kyi co-founded the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners and documented imprisonment and rights violations.

Additional Information:

- The announcement is traditionally made on 31 August, the seventh Philippine President's birth anniversary.
- The award was established in April 1957, first presented in 1958 and is headquartered in Manila.
- Vinoba Bhave was the first Indian recipient in 1958 for Community Leadership; traditional categories cover public service, community leadership, journalism, literature, communication arts and peace.

DEFENCE

1. Indian Air Force indigenises 62,300 spares using 3D printing and digital twins.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Indian Air Force indigenised 62,300 aircraft spares through additive manufacturing and digital-twin technologies, easing shortages in foreign-origin fleets and strengthening domestic maintenance capability.

Key Highlights:

- The programme saved ₹582 crore in foreign exchange over five years and generated more than ₹17,000 crore of business for domestic defence manufacturing.
- The Air Force partnered with 930 Indian firms, including small enterprises and new companies, across Su-30MKI, Rafale, Tejas, Mirage 2000 and MiG-29 fleets.
- An in-house additive-manufacturing facility established in 2022 produces urgent, low-volume spares according to required build size.
- Predictive maintenance now uses artificial-intelligence health monitoring and digital twins to identify hardware faults before failure.

- Domestic sources cover 97% of frequently drawn items and 93% of mandatory overhaul spares for decentralised fleets.
- Work includes new manufacture, repair, refurbishment and life extension of older systems.
- The electronic maintenance system went live on 1 December 2020 to track inventory and maintenance safety.
- About 90% of the Air Force capital expenditure remained domestic during the previous two financial years.

Additional Information:

- The maintenance system was dedicated to the nation at Aero India in February 2023 and developed as a public-private partnership under Digital India.
- The Directorate of Aerospace Design monitors 180 innovation projects; Sankalp-2026 lists industry problems and Russian-platform requirements.

2. Fourth Tri-Services Future Warfare Course concludes in New Delhi.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The fourth Tri-Services Future Warfare Course concluded in New Delhi on 30 August 2026 after a four-week professional military-education programme.

Key Highlights:

- Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff conducted the course, coordinated by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies.
- Participants included Army, Navy and Air Force officers plus representatives from academia, industry and strategic think tanks.
- Chief of Defence Staff General N. S. Raja Subramani discussed emerging trends and integrated ecosystems with participants.
- The course strengthened strategic foresight, technological awareness and readiness for changing warfare.
- It promoted joint learning and functional efficiency across the three services.

Additional Information:

- Integrated Defence Staff was established in 2001 on Kargil Review Committee recommendations and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- The Chief of Defence Staff is permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and principal military adviser to the Defence Minister; General Bipin Rawat first held the post in January 2020.
- The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies was registered in 2007 to promote tri-service integration.

OBITUARY

1. US author and environmentalist Wendell Berry passes away at 92.

[03 SEP 2026] -



American author, farmer and environmentalist Wendell Berry died at age 92 at his Port Royal, Kentucky home on 1 September 2026. His writing and activism connected farming, community, nature and moral responsibility.

Key Highlights:

- He wrote more than 40 books spanning poetry, novels and essays.
- His novels included *Leviathan* and *The Way to the Water*; other works included *Unsettling the Land* and *The Gift of Goodness*: 1979-1997.
- His 1989 essay *The Way to the Water* declared that eating is an agricultural act.
- He received the National Humanities Medal in 2011 and the National Book Critics Circle Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.
- He belonged to the American Academy of Arts and Letters but never received a Pulitzer Prize or National Book Award.
- He received Stanford University's Wallace Stegner Fellowship in 1958 and was an alumnus and former teacher at the University of Kentucky.
- His agrarian philosophy challenged modern ideas of prosperity; in 2011 he joined a sit-in at Kentucky's governor office against strip mining.
- His father was a lawyer, and farming on his grandfather's land shaped his early life and nature-centred writing.

Additional Information:

- Berry's work repeatedly emphasised the spiritual importance of nature and trees.
- He combined literary work with farming and environmental protest.

GENERAL & OTHER NEWS

1. Bhashini strengthens India-Nepal cooperation in multilingual AI.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Digital India Bhashini Division organised the Bhashini Shilpi session on 31 August 2026 to deepen India-Nepal collaboration in multilingual artificial intelligence and digital inclusion.

Key Highlights:

- Developers and researchers will create technology-enabled solutions that reduce language barriers and improve regional digital access.
- The platform supports more than 800 government websites and has processed over nine billion information units.
- It handles more than 24 million artificial-intelligence inferences each day.
- Text services cover 36 Indian languages, voice services cover 23 Indian languages and multilingual capability extends to 35 foreign languages.

Additional Information:

- Bhashini is India's national platform for technology-enabled translation and speech services.
- Its purpose is to make digital public infrastructure accessible to every citizen.

2. India's first Green Forge complex inaugurated at BRIC-NABI Mohali.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first Green Forge complex at the National Agri-Food and Bio-manufacturing Institute in Mohali for controlled simulation, cultivation and testing of genetically modified crops.

Key Highlights:

- The facility recreates light quality and quantity, humidity and temperature.
- Artificial intelligence and advanced simulation will test crop suitability for different locations.
- A national network includes eight specialised biofoundries and 22 manufacturing hubs for new companies, small enterprises and researchers.
- India's bioeconomy grew from USD 10 billion to USD 200 billion, supported by the BioE3 initiative.
- The institute is collaborating with ISRO on cyanobacteria growth, muscle formation and cognitive-effect experiments.
- The Department of Biotechnology supports 38 carbon-capture and utilisation projects aligned with Net Zero 2070.

Additional Information:

- The complex is located at BRIC-NABI in Mohali.
- Its work combines crop science, simulation, biomanufacturing and sustainability.

3. Government releases National Accounts Statistics 2026.

[03 SEP 2026] -



The Government of India released National Accounts Statistics 2026 on 1 September, providing comprehensive

macroeconomic aggregates and sectoral-performance data for the 2026 period.

- It focuses on indigenous computing capacity and a domestic artificial-intelligence ecosystem.

Key Highlights:

- The National Statistical Office compiled and released the report under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It contains detailed estimates of Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added.
- It also tracks National Income, Consumption Expenditure and Capital Formation.

Additional Information:

- The National Statistical Office was created in May 2019 by merging the Central Statistical Office and National Sample Survey Office.
- The ministry became independent in 1999, is based in New Delhi and releases indicators including CPI and IIP.

4. Vice-President launches sovereign AI stack Gnani Artha.

[03 SEP 2026] -



Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the Indian sovereign artificial-intelligence stack Gnani Artha at Uprashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Key Highlights:

- Indian company Gnani AI developed the stack under CEO Ganesh Gopalan and co-founder Ananth Nagaraj.
- Evon 3.3 is a specialised Large Language Model for Indian applications.
- Plexus connects artificial-intelligence capability with real institutional work processes.
- Simultaneous interpretation is active in eight languages on the Digital Sansad portal and is planned for all Scheduled Languages used in parliamentary debates and papers.

Additional Information:

- The IndiaAI Mission is creating Centres of Excellence for artificial intelligence.